

February 15, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

### **Detroit Free Press: Angry Alan Wood gets life in prison for slitting throat of Royal Oak woman, 80**

"Convicted killer Alan Wood defiantly told an Oakland County judge to 'just get on with the sentencing and stop your preaching,' as she chastised him for the brutal slaying of an elderly Royal Oak woman in 2011 before sentencing him to life in prison without parole."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **The Detroit News: Judge calls Royal Oak slaying most brutal murder case she's seen**

[Full story](#)

### **The Detroit News: Briefs: Handyman in Bashara killing to be sentenced**

"A former handyman who said he strangled Jane Bashara last year because her husband paid him to kill her will learn next week how long he'll be in prison. Joseph Gentz, 48, of St. Clair Shores, is to be sentenced Tuesday by Judge Vonda R. Evans of Wayne County Circuit Court"

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Detroit Free Press: Gentz sentencing set for Tuesday (third article)**

[Full story](#)

### **The Daily Tribune: Joe Gentz sentencing moved up to Tuesday**

[Full story](#)

**Note:** The article also ran in the Macomb Daily and the Oakland Press.

### **Detroit Free Press: Wayne County court celebrates Valentine's Day nuptials: A 'life-altering day'**

"Aaron Matthews stared into the teary eyes of his soon-to-be wife Nia Matthews as they stood face-to-face today, holding hands in a Wayne County courtroom at the Coleman A. Young Building in Detroit. The couple — along with 12 others — vowed to love and cherish one another for the rest of their lives as they recited marriage vows during a group ceremony held in honor of Valentine's Day."

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Legal News: Attorney Gen. casts doubt on impact of no-parole decision**

"Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette believes a judge's recent opinion on no-parole sentences for juveniles covers only five prisoners and is not a sweeping decision affecting other inmates."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **The MiLW Blog: The law as applied to juvenile lifers, according to Bill Schuette**

[Full story](#)

### **Hometown Life Newspapers: Plaintiff's attorney offers his view of Eagle Elementary case**

Robert Davis writes "The Michigan Supreme Court's decision to not grant leave is disappointing as this case involved a compelling public interest. This is a loss not only for my client, but for all citizens of Michigan."

[Full story](#)

### **Grand Rapids Press: Judge sends man to prison for life, calling 2011 murder of Walker woman a 'cold-blooded execution'**

"A Kent County circuit judge on Thursday, Feb. 14, sentenced Karl Cotton Jr. to life in prison without parole, calling a Walker woman's 2011 murder a 'cold-blooded' execution and saying Cotton has shown no remorse at all."

[Full story](#)

### **Jackson Citizen Patriot: Peek Through Time Update: 1945 murder of State Sen. Warren G. Hooper featured on Travel Channel's 'Mysteries at the Museum'**

"The story of the mysterious 1945 murder of State Sen. Warren G. Hooper of Albion has resurfaced in an episode of the Travel Channel's 'Mysteries at the Museum.' The broadcast shows Hooper's worn and blood-stained hat, which currently is housed in Lansing's Michigan Historical Museum."

[Full story](#)

**Note: The article includes a two minute podcast featuring Michigan Court of Appeals Judge William Whitbeck.**

### **Lansing State Journal: Historic Charlotte courthouse maintained by 80-year-old volunteer**

"In 1991 Gaylord Edgerly was visiting the historic 1885 Eaton County Courthouse when he noticed a few things 'that needed tending to.' The retired electrician knew a thing or two about caring for old buildings. The Charlotte man's Cochran Avenue home, a 1904 Victorian, was a project he had spent years restoring, both inside and out."

[Full story](#)

### **Lansing State Journal: Cindy Estrada: Constitution clear on state workers**

Cindy Estrada writes "Recently Gov. Rick Snyder requested an advisory opinion from the State Supreme Court on the legality of his so-called 'right-to-work' laws, which will force workers to pay more and get less on the job. By requesting a rubber stamp from the Supreme Court, it is obvious the governor is desperate to put this politically toxic issue behind him."

[Full story](#)

### **The Macomb Daily: Macomb courthouse employees worried about safety after incidents**

"Some female employees at the county courthouse are concerned about their safety at the adjacent parking garage in downtown Mount Clemens after three minor incidents involving vehicles in the New Year."

[Full story](#)

### **The Michigan Daily/Ann Arbor: Michigan high court rules against patient-to-patient pot market**

"Medical marijuana laws are still a smoking-hot topic in Michigan courts. Last Friday, the Michigan Supreme Court ruled in a 4-1 decision that patient-to-patient medical marijuana dispensaries are illegal after an ongoing trial involving a dispensary based in Mount Pleasant, Mich."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

## **Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: State lawmaker proposes medical marijuana dispensaries**

[Full story](#)

## **The Michigan Daily/Ann Arbor: Issue ads topic of panel on Michigan Supreme Court**

"The University's Law School co-hosted a forum Monday evening to discuss how Michigan Supreme Court justices are appointed. The event, organized for members of the Law School community, included panelists such as former Justice Marilyn Kelly and Rich Robinson, executive director of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network — a nonpartisan coalition advocates campaign finance reform."

[Full story](#)

## **The News Herald/Southgate: WAYNE COUNTY: Judge moves to civil division**

"Former Taylor resident Annette Jurkiewicz Berry, a judge in the Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan, Wayne County, will now serve in the Civil Division and preside over a newly created docket. Berry was first elected to Wayne County Circuit Court in November 2000 and served 12 years in the Criminal Division."

[Full story](#)

## **Oakland County Legal News: Courts closed**

"The Oakland County Circuit and Probate Courts will be closed on Monday, Feb. 18, in observance of Presidents Day.... The Michigan Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and State Court Administrative Office will be closed on Monday, Feb. 18, in observance of Presidents Day."

[Full story](#)

## **Oakland County Legal News: Judge rules against Pontiac emergency manager on pensions**

"[Oakland County Circuit Judge Rae Lee Chabot] says Pontiac's state-appointed emergency financial manager [Lou Schimmel] violated the Open Meetings Act in making changes to the city's retiree pension board."

[Full story](#)

## **Oakland County Legal News: MADD, Michigan State Police support 0.08 BAC**

"Along with losing \$50 million in federal funding, Michigan would likely see its drunken-driving accidents and deaths increase if a 2003 law that lowered the legal blood-alcohol limit for driving is allowed to expire this year, police and other supporters told lawmakers Wednesday."

[Full story](#)

## **SBM Blog: Just How Important Is Accurate English Translation In Our Courts?**

"The Michigan Supreme Court is currently contemplating rules on how to handle English limited proficiency in state courts.... The challenge is that court users interact with the court in a wide variety of ways and have a wide range of needs, and that all court interactions are not equally consequential."

[Full story](#)

## **SBM Blog: Another Justice Changes Mind About Cameras In The Courtroom**

"This time it's Justice Sotomayor who's changed her mind. She favored televising Supreme Court arguments during her confirmation hearing, but according to this National Law Journal story now says that televised oral arguments could be 'more misleading than helpful' to viewers who don't understand the issues before the court.... The Michigan Supreme Court, in contrast, is not camera-shy. Its oral arguments are broadcast by MGTV, and the videos are available on the State Bar website."

[Full story](#)